

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Gender language style is a very interesting topic in sociolinguistics because it analyzes the differences in the ways that men and women use language (Lakoff, 2004). It is easy enough to say that men and women differ in their linguistic performance. Men are usually seen as superior speakers while women are usually seen as inferior speakers during the conversation process. So, it is important to realize in this issue and the used subjects to analyze are Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Prince Harry (Duke of Sussex) is a member of the British royal family. He is the younger son of Charles (Prince of Wales) and Diana (Princess of Wales). He is sixth in the line of succession to the British throne. He was officially named as Prince Henry of Wales from birth, but now, he is known as Prince Harry. In other hand, Rachel Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex) is a retired American actress. Markle was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Markle has addressed issues of gender inequality. Her lifestyle website, *The Tig*, provides a profile column of influential women. In 2017, she announced her engagement to Prince Harry, grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, and moved to London. She retired from acting, closed her social media accounts. She became a member of the British royal (Duchess of Sussex) after her marriage to Prince Harry in May 2018 (Davies, 2018).

British royal wedding is always interesting for people and media. It is not because Prince Harry had a reputation in his youth for being rebellious and *wild child* (Majendie, 2008), or because Meghan Markle is a retired actress who was married to actor and producer Trevor Engelson. But it is sensational because she would become a mixed-race royal in history. Markle said, “My dad is Caucasian and my mom is African American ... I have come to embrace [this and] say who I am, to share where I’m from, to voice my pride in being a strong, confident, mixed-race woman” (Markle, 2015).

Their background also shows that there are many differences in their life, from background, ethnic, culture, nation, and many things. Of

course, their gender also influences the way they use the language because the differences between men and women language show that gender language style should be understood as a discourse, ideology and gender identity (Speer, 2005: 7-8). It appears in their post-engagement interview. The interview shows the difference of language features that they use. One of the factors is gender.

Additionally, it is very informative. In early January 2020, Harry and Meghan stirred up the audience with their decision to leave the Royal family and said they would try to be financially independent. As part of the transition, Harry and Meghan said they would divide time between Britain and North America. Queen Elizabeth II immediately held an emergency royal family meeting after Harry's announcement. Harry, William and Charles gather at the queen's house in eastern England. The king and senior family members are said to have changed the role of Harry and Meghan in the future (BBC, 2020)

Gender differentiation in language happens because language is a social phenomenon. It relates to social attitudes (Trudgill, 2000: 79). Men and women are socially different. In society, there are different social roles and it makes different behavior patterns for men and women. So, language reflects social facts. Gender is social fact. The difference of using gender language features in the speech of Harry and Markle is also social fact.

In the interview, both Harry and Markle tell many stories of their love. Sometimes they agree, sometimes they disagree, sometimes they laugh, sometimes they slip of tongue, sometimes they doubt to say, sometimes they say a lot, and many things they say. The way they say, there are differences in gender language style. Of course, the engagement becomes the public consumption and their marriage have been watched by millions of people in the world. With that fact, it is very promising to analyze how things were said in their post-engagement interview because they are influential and important people to watch.

There are some researches that can be related to this research. First is a research written by Riza Sholikha, entitled "Woman Language Features in Michelle Obama's Speech as An African American First Lady" (2016). This research explains that there are only seven features of women's speech used by Michelle Obama. They are

lexical hedges, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjective, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super-polite form, and empathic stress. The purpose of using lexical hedges is for mitigating the statement to her audiences and to show a doubt or confidence. The purpose of using rising intonation is for strengthening. The purpose of using empty adjective is for admiring something. The purpose of using intensifier is for persuading people. The purpose of using hypercorrect grammar is for rising woman social status. The purpose of using super-polite form is for lifting image. The purpose of using empathic stress is for emphasizing certain words.

The second is a research written Lisda Miftahul Aini, entitled “Women Language Used by the Main Characters of Mockingjay Movie” (2016). This research finds that Katniss Everdeen (the main character) uses six types of women speech features: rising intonation, lexical hedge, intensifier, super polite form, tag question, emphatic stress and precise discrimination.

The first previous study shows that woman language although it is not as superior as man language, but it has function to characterize woman style. Similar to the previous research, the second used features relate to the social condition in the society of the main character. It also shows that there is cross-gendered language style because Katniss (a woman) uses men language feature. From those previous studies, it is found the gap that this research aims to expose the difference between male and female language and the possibility of cross-gendered language style.

Additionally, this research has contribution for education field, especially in introducing language learning from gender language features. Most of English language teaching only focuses on technical things such as grammar, listening, reading, and other things. By gender language feature, the way to teach English to students can be vary because in language, there are differences in use for men and women.

B. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is about sociolinguistics. In sociolinguistics, there are many topics to discuss. Sociolinguistics talks about the relation between society and language. In society, there are many

aspects to see. One of the aspects is gender. So, the discussion of this research is limited to gender language style. In gender language style, this research focuses on the difference between man language style and woman language style in Harry and Markle in their post-engagement interview. Of course, the main focus is the different features in their language that is used in the interview.

C. Research Questions

In background, the problem is about the differences of the language they use from the gender aspect. The research question: What are the differences of gender language features which are found in the post-engagement interview of Prince Harry and Markle (2018)?

D. Objective of the Study

From the research questions above, it shows that language features used by Harry and Markle are different. The research question is described into this: This research purposes to explain the differences of gender language features which are found in the post-engagement interview of Prince Harry and Markle (2018).

E. Significances of the Study

From the objective of the research above, it can be seen that this research has significances of the research. The significances are:

1. For teachers, this research can be used as reference and example to explain the types of gender language features and the differences between the language style of man and woman;
2. For students, this research can be used as reference to study the types of gender language features and the differences between the language style of man and woman;
3. For institution, this research also can give further reference for the library and for further research.
4. For other researchers, this research can give source of references to compare with their research.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

This part has function to make the reader understand the context and the meaning of the terms. Here are some important terms and its definition.

1. *Harry*. He is Prince Harry (Duke of Sussex). He is a member of the British royal family. He is the younger son of Charles (Prince of Wales) and Diana (Princess of Wales).
2. *Markle*. She is Rachel Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex). She is a retired American actress. She has lifestyle website, *The Tig*. Now she is a member of the British royal (Duchess of Sussex) after her marriage to Prince Harry in May 2018.
3. *Sociolinguistics*. It is a study of language that relates language to society (Wardhaugh, 2010: 10-12). It is also a study that analyzes how social structures have impact to the way people talk and how language varieties and patterns of use relate with social class, sex, and age (Coulmas, 2010:12-13).
4. *Gender*. It is a set of two or more categories, such as feminine, masculine, or neuter, that the words are divided on the basis of psychological associations, liveliness, or other characteristics (Pearson, 1985:11). It is defined by society and expressed by individuals to interact with others as social relation (Wood, 2009:23). So, gender is the accomplishment and product of social interaction (Holmes & Meyerhoff, 2003:11).
5. *Gender Language Feature*. It is typical feature of differences which exist between the language of men and women in using language where men have higher position than women, so women seem to follow and obey the norms and the rules, while men have power and control (Lorber, 1994:115).

